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Respondent

6 Arlene Vespa

34:06

Time to complete

Instructions:

NOTE: To remain eligible for SSC funding after the Step 1 application, the SSC strongly suggests that project leads present their proposed projects at a working group meeting BEFORE submitting their Step 2 application. If you have not attended a working group meeting, please do so and then continue the Step 2 application.

Linked below is our calendar with all of our working group meetings
<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/calendar/>

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the SSC at Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.

1. Please select the working group meeting at which you presented. *

- ☒ Energy + Transportation & Infrastructure
- ☐ Food & Waste + Land, Air, & Water
- ☐ Education & Justice

2. Date of Working Group Presentation: *

2/20/2024



3. Project Name: *

Steven S. Wymer Hall (Wymer Hall) Formerly the South Campus Center for Interdisciplinary Learning (SCCIL), renamed Steven S. Wymer Hall at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 30, 2023.

4. Total Funding Requested from the SSC: *

\$500,000. We understand the SSC limits annual funding to any one project to 1/3 of their annual budget, or 1/3 (\$2m +/-) = \$666,667. SSC awarded the project \$100,000 in Spring 2023 and \$100,000 in Fall 2023. Gies and the project team hope SSC will grant the remaining funding request of \$300,00 in 2 more installments of \$150,000 this cycle and in Fall 2024.

5. Project Lead Full Name: *

Arlene Vespa

6. Project Lead Department: *

Gies College of Business Facilities

7. Project Lead University Email Address: *

vespa2@illinois.edu

8. Are you a student? (NOTE: All student-led projects must have a faculty/staff advisor. *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

9. Project Category: *

- ☐ Education & Justice
- ☒ Energy
- ☐ Food & Waste
- ☐ Land, Air & Water
- ☐ Transportation & Infrastructure

10. **Project Abstract:**

In 200 words describe the project *

A state-of-the-art building to prepare Illinois students for futures of purpose and impact and a partnership between Gies Business and campus, this hybrid educational facility will house collaboration spaces, traditional and flexible classrooms, informal learning environments, content creation studios, academic offices and support spaces. This project has deep green aspirations, seeking grant funding for a \$7.1 million district-scale geothermal field providing heating and cooling for the building, a campus first, with expansion potential to surrounding facilities. The project is targeting LEED platinum certification with aspirations to achieve net zero energy and net zero carbon within its first year of operation.

Project Team Member List (Student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's info)

Project Lead

11. Full Name: *

Dean Jeffrey Brown

12. Department: *

Gies College of Business

13. University Email Address: *

brownjr@illinois.edu

14. Do you have a faculty/staff advisor? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Project Team Member List (Student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's info)

Additional Member

15. Full Name:

Shelley Campbell

16. Department:

Gies College of Business

17. University Email Address:

scampbe2@illinois.edu

18. Do you have additional members? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Project Team Member List (Student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's info)
Additional Member

19. Full Name: *

Kari Cooperider

20. Department: *

Gies College of Business

21. University Email Address: *

kacoop@illinois.edu

22. Do you have additional members? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Project Team Member List (Student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's info)
Additional Member

23. Full Name: *

Brian Bundren

24. Department/Campus Affiliation: *

Office of the Provost

25. University Email Address: *

bundren@illinois.edu

Project Questionnaire

26. Beyond SSC, do you have other sources contributing funding or support (e.g., staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

27. Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC does not guarantee ongoing financial support) *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

28. Have you spoken with anyone in UIUC's Division of Facilities & Services or a facility's site manager (if relevant) regarding project feasibility and/or approval? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

29. With whom did you speak? *

Joe Villanti, F&S Senior Project Manager assigned to Wymer Hall


30. Email address of person with whom you spoke: *

jpv023@illinois.edu

31. Please attach any letters of departmental commitment or support here along with any other supplemental media that will support your application (presentations, pictures, etc.).

 [March 2024 - Best of CU 2024 - Wymer_Arlene Vespa.pdf](#)

 [2024-03-20 FIN 418 Wymer Presentation_Arlene Vespa.pdf](#)

 [2024-04-30 SSC Energy Working Group memo_Arlene Vespa.pdf](#)

32. **Project Timeline:**

List your project's timeline and milestones. (NOTE: SSC funding agreements remain active for two years and it is expected that the awarded amount will be spent within the award period.) *

2021 February – Building site approved
2022 March – Concept design approved
2022 September – Board of Trustees approved
2023 April – Groundbreaking ceremony
2023 May – Begin Construction
2025 January – Construction Complete
2025 August – First classes held in new building

33. **Project Description:**

Describe your project in sufficient detail such that we can evaluate its merit and feasibility.

What does your project hope to accomplish?

What are your project's deliverables? *

Having commenced construction in May, Steven S. Wymer Hall (Wymer Hall), will be a four-story building with deep green aspirations to expand the new campus paradigm to inspire future campus improvement projects using geothermal exchange, thermal storage, and optimized building designs.

Introduction

A state-of-the-art building to prepare Illinois students for futures of purpose and impact and a partnership between Gies Business and campus, this hybrid educational facility will house collaboration spaces, traditional and flexible classrooms, informal learning environments, content creation studios, academic offices and support spaces. This project has deep green aspirations, seeking grant funding for a \$7.1 million district-scale geothermal field providing heating and cooling for the building, a campus first, with expansion potential to surrounding facilities. The project is targeting LEED platinum certification with aspirations to achieve net zero energy and net zero carbon within its first year of operation.

Project Description

Steven S. Wymer Hall will provide an advanced, high-tech facility with programming space for learners on campus as well as advanced studio space for serving online students and courses. Wymer Hall will:

- Provide expanded studio space and recording capabilities to serve online courses and programs throughout campus.
- Facilitate experiential learning and group work, as well as offer collaborative spaces for campus students.
- Support enrollment growth with additional and much-needed larger classroom spaces for the south campus.
- Provide needed office space for faculty and support staff in Gies College of Business that have increased to serve growing online programs.

Building space for achievement and growth

Located in the heart of south campus, Wymer Hall will be home to spaces that will enable learners – both on campus and online – to achieve their potential. At just under 100,000 square feet, it will include:

Classrooms

- 1 200-seat auditorium
- 2 80-seat classrooms
- 4 60-seat classrooms

Studios

- 2 sound stages
- 5 black box studios
- 6 control booths

Offices and meeting rooms

- 18 meeting and collaborative rooms of varying sizes
- 84 offices

The leading-edge online teaching studios will bring the educational power of the University of Illinois to the world. Classrooms and gathering spaces will provide the tools and technology learners need to discover ways to make a positive impact on the world. Flexible classrooms will allow quick transition from a lecture format to collaborative group interaction.

Located at 503 East Gregory in Champaign, Wymer Hall will be constructed between BIF and Huff Hall.

34. **Environmental Impact:**

How does your project increase environmental stewardship at UIUC?
If applicable, what is the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings? *

The project achieves a low energy use intensity (EUI) with a suite of measures including a chilled beam heating and cooling system, high efficiency lighting and equipment, and passive desiccant humidity control. The project showcases how new construction projects can exceed iCAP goals and emissions reductions by reducing dependence on the Abbott Power Plant via a \$7.1 million district-scale geothermal field providing heating and cooling for the building, a campus first, with expansion potential to surrounding facilities. The load of the chilled beam system for heating and cooling requires 273 tons (2,520,000 Btu/hour) of heating and cooling capacity. With the \$500,000 requested, the project can take 100% of that load and utilize the ground-source system to provide the heating and cooling needed through a combination of the stored thermal energy and electrical energy. The implementation of efficient building systems and the ground-source system will reduce source energy and carbon emissions by 58%. The project builds on a new paradigm established with the Campus Instructional Facility, expanding the network of deep green infrastructure and drastically reducing energy reliance on the Abbott Power Plant. In this case, the system goes one step further delivering 100% of the building's heating and cooling load.

35. **iCAP Objective Correspondence:**

Does your project aim to advance one or more of the Illinois Climate Action Plan's (iCAP) objectives? If so, how?

A full list can be found here:
<https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/objectives>

The Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) outlines a path for UIUC to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2050. Our proposal reduces dependence on the Abbott Power Plant as the University transitions to a zero emission and zero carbon campus. While the existing plant has an efficient combined heat and power system, it also relies on fossil fuel to generate energy at a high carbon footprint. With the geothermal system, the total energy needed from chilled water is eliminated and provided to the building only for redundancy. This installation builds on past projects, providing heating and cooling for the building, a campus first, while also creating a template that can be replicated in other areas as the University works towards a cleaner future. Eliminating emissions from Abbott and purchased electricity is a central vision outlined in the iCAP. Methods cited include reducing energy demands and shifting energy generation toward clean energy sources. Wymer is all-electric and aims to utilize 100% solar power for energy demands, while the geothermal system will vastly reduce its demand. Wymer will use high- efficiency heat pumps. All heating will be met by non-fossil-fuel electricity rather than by combustion of fossil fuels.

36. **Student Impact:**

How many students will be directly impacted by this project? *

Thousands. Total classroom capacity in building = 600 students. Number of students in class in the building depends on multiple factors such as class period time (1-hour class time, 90-minute, etc.) as well as how many days/week the course meets (MWF, etc.)

37. How many students will be indirectly impacted by this project? Please be realistic in your estimate. *

Thousands. This is a shared campus building that will be open 7 days a week to all students with various open and also reservable collaboration areas for use. Indirectly, the new soundstages and black box studios for synchronous and asynchronous teaching will be used by campus via the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning in addition to Gies College of Business.

38. How will this project benefit students?

How will students be involved with this project?
What educational components are in your project? *

The Project team envisions partnering with the SSC, including expanded teaching and research opportunities for faculty/staff.

- Wymer's design and engineering will be available for research.
- During construction, the Project team welcomes faculty/student engagement for site visits, Project team engagement and analysis of the building construction and geothermal installation.
- Post-occupancy, digital monitoring and controls will display real time energy and emissions savings.
- Wymer Hall and the Project team will be available for student engagement, showcasing the University's dedication to its climate commitments.

We envision collaboration with faculty/staff in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Geology, and Energy Systems Program, iSEE, and Facilities and Services. We want to showcase the interface between the geo-exchange system and distribution of the heating and cooling from the digital monitoring and control room. Operationally, students will enjoy comfort from the chilled beam system.

The Project proposes to seek publicity in trade and scientific publications, in the media, in conferences/workshops, and in communications with campus administrators, public officials and regulatory agencies. This Project touches all students at the University – those attending in-person, as well as those participating in the innovative programs developed in the Project's studios, generating content broadcast throughout the world.


Project Finances

39. **Please Complete the Attached Budget and Timeline Excel File**

Please be very descriptive when filling out the document. Submit the completed document below.

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/docs/SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline.xlsx>

*

 SSC-Step2-Supplemental-Budget-and-Timeline Wy_Arlene Vespa.xlsx

40. **Project's Finance Manager:**

Must be a fulltime UIUC faculty or staff member** *

Shelley Campbell, Associate Dean of Finance and Administration

41. Project's Finance Manager's Department: *

Gies College of Business

42. Project's Finance Manager's University Email: *

SCampbe2@illinois.edu

43. Has your project and/or project team applied for SSC funding previously? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

44. Did your project and/or project team receive SSC funding? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

45. What is the total amount of SSC funding received to date? *

\$200,000